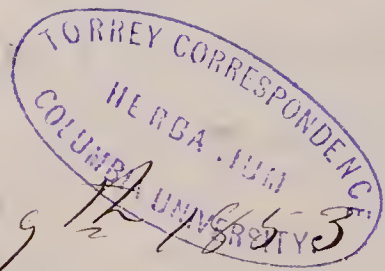


And Oct. 7.



Letter to Aug 29th

Dr Torrey

My Dear Friend

I have delayed answering your last, simply through want of something to communicate. I wish to show to you that I have not entirely left the field of Botanical pursuit, so I have put up a small parcel out of the collections that I have made during the past spring & summer, my opportunities for collecting, and preserving, are very limited.

I have made occasional excursions into the fields, and woods surrounding the city, each of only a few miles in extent, these excursions have always been to me a delightful recreation, and refreshing, as well as gratifying to my Botanical taste, but I cannot accomplish much in this way, and at the same time give that attention to Medicine and Medical literature that is demanded of the young practitioner in the present advanced, & still advancing state of our Noble Combination of Sciences in the practice of Medicine. I feel bound while in pursuing my profession, to devote myself to such studies as shall have a more direct bearing upon the detection, & cure of disease,

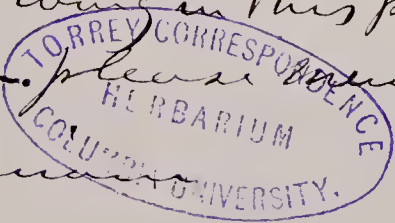
nevertheless I manage to bestow a little attention
to natural science, in the early part of the season
I sent to Europe (through a book seller of this place)
for some Botanical works in the French & English
languages, the English works, consisting of Animal &
Vegetable Physiology by P. & M. Roget, the Plant by
Schleiden, Botany by Lindley, Elements of Botany by the
same Author, also a small work entitled Simons
and Systematic Botany ^{have arrived}. These works please me much,
that of Roget, however, I would prize more had he
been himself an observer, I am in daily expectation of
De Candolle's, Organographie végétale; a similar work by
Gussieu, & several other ^{Botanical works} from the Continent, with such
an addition to my library, I shall be highly gratified, as
I obtained but a mere taste from those of your own
extensive collection of Botanical & works. Next I wish
to get Prof. Hartington's Biographical Sketches of
American Botanists &c. I believe my love for, and
attachment to Botany is growing stronger every year,
how I ~~would~~ enjoy an excursion like that
which Mr. Lundgren undertook last summer,
under the patronage of Dr. Short; It comes to my
mind just here, Doctor, that you mentioned in
one of your letters to me last spring that Dr. Short
had been in your City & had offered more money
if it should be needed. I did not understand
whether this was in reference to Mr. Lundgren's
expedition, or to the fitting out of another.

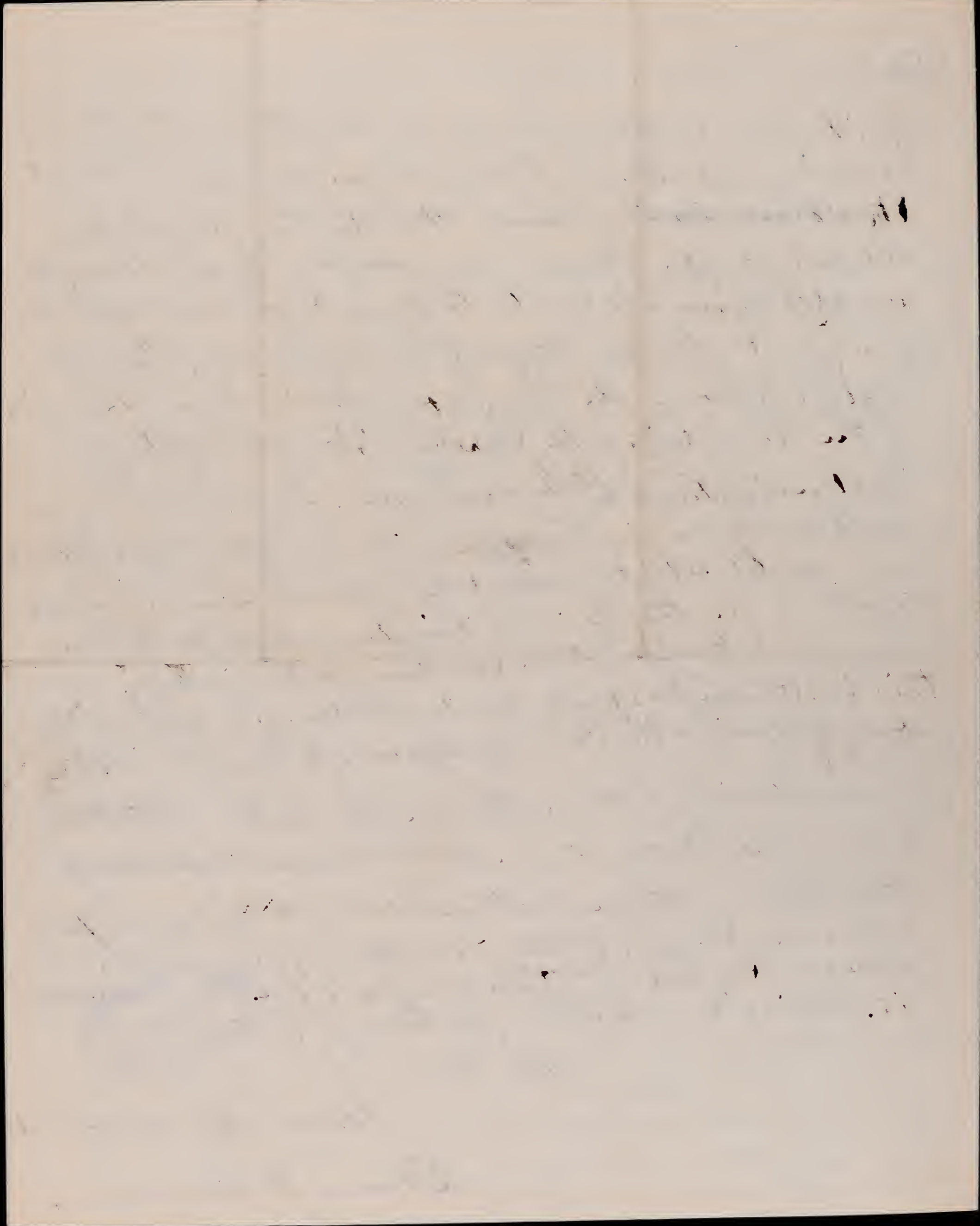
if it were with reference to the fitting out of another
exploring expedition. I would quickly offer to accept
~~the~~ Commission, since the Standard Expedition
did not go off. Please remember me as one ready to
accept, & anxious to undertake a botanical exploration
of any part of the Country, or of South America. I should
be glad to learn the result of Mr Sundgrens Excursion
to the mountains of the Carolinas &c. also of Prof
Norton's Expedition to New Grenada. I am acquainted
with a Physician here of considerable Scientific attainments
who would like to undertake a similar Course of inves-
tigations in the Mineral Kingdom. with particular
reference to Comparative Anatomy & Physiology.
This Gentleman has paid much attention for years to the
study of Man, & the Causes of species, & varieties in the
Human Family. I learn through Dr Sartwell that Dr
Thorney goes to Australia, to make a full Collection of
the Algae of those waters. I would subscribe for a
set were I able. if there is anything growing in this part
of the country. that you ^{would let} have me look for. please mention
it. hoping to hear from you soon, I remain

My dear Sir

Your Humble Servant

Edward J. Murrain,





Buffalo Oct 12th 1853

Mr Torrey

My dear Friend

I feel under obligation
to you for your kind letter of the 7th which I
received last evening. I am very sorry because
I wish especially to be doing in some way an appointment
for the the post of Physician & Surgeon on
exploring expedition to some part of the Continent.
especially would I be gratified to receive such an
appointment to Capt Marc's Expedition to the Rio
Brazos. Should it be settled out, you will doubtless
recollect that in my last I mentioned that there was
another physician in this place who would like a
similar situation. It is an account of his health,
this gentleman was our preceptor, and is considered
one of the best Physicians of the place. has a good practice,
but wishes to get away from his business for a season
to make observation, from nature especially in the
direction of Camp. & Gallatone, Could situations
be obtained in the same expedition it would be very
agreeable. but this perhaps is not possible. I am quite
willing to go separately,

Very truly & respectfully
E. D. Merrill

